

**Speed Limits Policy**

1. Oxfordshire County Council, as the Highway Authority, is responsible for the setting of all local speed limits across the road network throughout Oxfordshire excluding motorways and trunk roads.
2. Speed limits fall under two categories:

* National Speed Limits; 30mph, 60mph and 70mph, as defined within the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
* Local Speed Limits; 20mph, 40mph and 50mph, which set by Local Authorities and guided by [DfT Circular 1/13 Setting Local Speed Limits](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/63975/circular-01-2013.pdf)

1. The introduction 20mph speed limits should be carried out in accordance with Oxfordshire’s 20mph Speed Restrictions Policy.
2. Signage and road markings for speed limits are not included within this policy and are covered by Road Markings & Road Studs Procedure and the Traffic Signs Procedure.
3. Oxfordshire County Council does not enforce speed limits, the responsibility of this function lies with Thames Valley Police.
4. This policy encompasses Oxfordshire County Council’s corporate vision, objectives and embraces the 9 priority themes of the Council. The policy is also informed by the Local Transport Connectivity Plan, the Highway Asset Management Plan.
5. An effective speed limit policy can contribute significantly to the following outcomes:

* To aid road safety and reduce the risk of injury;
* To ensure the efficient working and enforcement of road traffic regulations;
* To maintain effective traffic control.

**Policy: SLP1**

Oxfordshire County Council will ensure speed limits are appropriate to the location, nature and purpose of the road.

1. Speed limits should be considered as part of a package of measures to manage vehicle speeds and improve road safety.

**Policy: SLP2**

Oxfordshire County Council will consider Speed limits when changes to the road layout or usage of a road are proposed because of development or improvement schemes, and in response to emerging road safety issues and concerns.

1. The imposition of any new speed limit, or amendment to existing speed limit, requires a Traffic Regulation Order to be made.

**Policy: SLP3**

Where Oxfordshire County Council propose a new speed limit we will carry out a consultation with public bodies such as the police, district and parish councils, as per our statutory duties.

**Service Aims**

1. We will investigate and respond to all requests to changes in speed limit.
2. We will use a risk based approach in the setting and review of speed limits.

Reference & Supporting Documents

* Road Markings & Road Studs Procedure
* 20mph Speed Restrictions Policy
* Traffic Signs Procedure
* Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
* [DfT Circular 1/13 Setting Local Speed Limits](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/63975/circular-01-2013.pdf)
* [Traffic Signs and General Directions 2016](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/traffic-signs-regulations-and-general-directions-2016)